

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/725,307  
Filing Date: December 1, 2003  
Applicant: James D. Ralph et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3733  
Examiner: Pedro Philogene  
Title: LONGITUDINAL PLATE ASSEMBLY HAVING AN  
ADJUSTABLE LENGTH  
Attorney Docket: 5490E-000608/COC

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Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
**IN COMPLIANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 15, 2007, please amend the application as follows in compliance with 37 CFR §1.116 and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.